

March 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to S.B. 1088-An Act Concerning Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability that will require DDS Commissioner Morna Murray to develop a plan by December 15, 2015 for closing Southbury Training School and all state-run facilities for I/DD individuals:

Our sister, Sandra, has been a lifelong resident of STS due to her Autism and severe mental disabilities. She will never be 'cured', but continues to receive necessary care and monitoring 24 hours per day-365 days per year. This cannot be provided by her family. The care she has and continues to receive at STS is more than necessary due to her intellectual disability-she does not function as a normal adult and, in fact, has the mental capacity of a three year old child.

Community placement is not an option- we have seen first hand the deplorable conditions that exist in many group homes, 'for profit' businesses that are in many cases substandard, understaffed, lacking in the training and education provided by STS staff. Some are on public streets close to the road, one we saw had 3 sitting rooms and a fireplace [safety and too many walls]-this was a renovation to a home-- understaffed with only two staff and five clients-what if there is an emergency with one staff on hand to handle the emergency and the other to handle 4 upset clients? STS has plenty of staff, on-site medical, recreation, frequent bus trips and a steadfast routine tailored to each client for their comfort and well-being. They have town concerts to go to on their beautiful campus and everything is familiar to them causing them much less stress.

Our sister would be uprooted from a safe friendly and very familiar environment that provides the medical care and support she needs. And her needs and the

needs of the other residents are what STS provides in a healthy, happy environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Lamphier

Ann Genereux

Ronald Blanchard

Guardians of STS Client